REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 11-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4-10 are cancelled. No new matter is added.

The Office Action asserts that the "action is responsive to the request for reconsideration/remarks filed 09-22-2004...[and that] claims 1-2 and 4-12 are currently pending. However, Applicants did not file any paper on September 22, 2004. Applicants filed a Request for Continued Examination on September 13, 2004. Applicants also filed a Preliminary Amendment on September 13, 2004, in which claims 1-2 and 11 were amended and claims 13-15 were added. Applicants note that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office "Public Pair" system indicates that the Preliminary Amendment has been entered.

The Office Action objects to the specification and rejects the claims under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for asserted formalities regarding the recitation of the term "clearance." However, this terminology was deleted from claims 1-2 and 11 in the September 13, 2004, Preliminary Amendment. In view of the above cancellation of claims 4-10, the terminology "clearance" is no longer present in the claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection and rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, are rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone

number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to Attorney Docket No. 107348-00137.

Respectfully submitted,



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